



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 2, 2019

Montgomery County Delegation

Re: MC 6-20, Agricultural Reserve - Deer Management Permits

Good Evening Members of the Montgomery County Delegation,

On behalf of the Montgomery Agricultural Advisory Committee, I want to thank you for this opportunity to present our support for MC 6-20. The Agricultural Advisory Committee is very appreciative of the growing support this Delegation has demonstrated over the years to combat against the growing deer population. The proposed bill will allow hunters to use rifles while hunting under a deer management permit authorized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-MDDNR.

Our County farmers continue to experience increasing crop damage from the growing deer population, and this negatively impacts the farmers profitability. As deer continue to thrive throughout Montgomery County, we must continue to identify ways to manage the growing deer population. Total deer harvested each year continues to decline in proportion to the decreasing number of licensed hunters. Considering these trends, we need to make sure the remaining licensed hunters have the most effective means and tools to reduce the deer population.

For the record, the Agricultural Advisory Committee is aware of some discussions within the agricultural community surrounding the use of rifles and the possible safety concerns associated with their use.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee thanks the sponsors of Bill MC 6-20, Delegates Luedtke, Kaiser, Qi, and Reznik for their support to the agricultural community.

Sincerely,

Doug Lechlides, Chairman

